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JEWS IN THE WAR OF 1812.

BY LEON HÜHNER, A. M., LL. B.

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BY LEON HÜHNER, A. M., LL. B.

Our second war with England did not strike a responsive chord in the hearts of the American people. A very large part of the nation opposed it, and aside from naval successes, such as Perry's victory, there is little to arouse enthusiasm. The engagements on land were for the most part a series of disasters.¹

This lack of enthusiasm may possibly account for the fact that there is comparatively little material available in this connection. While hundreds of works have been written concerning the American Revolution, and while a great many of the states have published lists of their soldiers and officers in other wars, few of the states have as yet published such lists concerning the War of 1812. The number of men engaged in the latter was a very small one, and the government found few volunteers. In fact it was only by a system of extravagant bounties that a substantial force was brought together at all.*

Despite the paucity of published material, however, the writer has been able to find the names of quite a number of Jews who participated, and to their honor be it said, practically all of these had volunteered almost at the start.

At the time when war was declared, there were probably less than three thousand Jews in all the states put together,³ yet in proportion to their number, they were well represented in the

¹ See Harper's "Encyclopedia of United States History," 1905, vol. x, p. 126, *et seq.*

² *Ibid.*

³ See Hannah Adams, "History of the Jews," 1812, vol. ii, pp. 215, 220. In a discourse delivered in 1818, Major M. M. Noah estimated the Jewish population of the United States at that date at 3000.

army. The North was of course most affected, the South being comparatively unmolested until the last year of the struggle.

After the first few disasters, General Dearborn was superseded by General Wilkinson as commander-in-chief, and the latter on October 17, 1813 ordered the troops to embark at Sacketts Harbor.⁴ Before morning, however, a furious gale came on and fifteen boats were lost. It was in this connection and in the events which followed, that an American Jew, Captain Mordecai Myers, particularly distinguished himself.

Myers was born at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1776. His father was a Hungarian, his mother an Austrian.⁵ He was educated in New York City and later removed to Richmond, Virginia, where he became a merchant. While there, he served in a military company under Colonel, afterward Chief Justice, Marshall. Returning to New York he served in an Artillery Company under the command of Captain John Swarthwort; and later, commissioned an officer of infantry, he studied military tactics for two years. When war was threatened he was active in raising volunteer companies, and in March, 1812 was commissioned a Captain in the 13th United States Infantry and ordered to report to Colonel Peter B. Schuyler.⁶

⁴ See Benson J. Lossing, "Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812," p. 646.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 654. See "Reminiscences, 1780-1814. Letters written by Major Myers to his son," privately printed, p. 6. "My father was a Hungarian and my mother an Austrian by birth, and arrived in New York in 1760 but soon removed to Newport where I was born May 31, 1776." He also states that his father became a friend of Ezra Stiles, subsequently president of Yale College, who was intimate with many of the Jews at Newport.

⁶ See Lossing, *supra*, p. 654; "Reminiscences," *supra*, pp. 13-46; Cassie Mason Myers Julien, "Biographical Sketches of the Bailey-Myers-Mason Families, 1776-1905," privately printed, 1908, pp. 1-33. This volume contains two fine portraits of Mordecai Myers. See also, Henry S. Morais "The Jews of Philadelphia," Philadelphia,



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His service at Sacketts Harbor is perhaps best described by Mr. Lossing, from whose "Field Book of the War of 1812" I quote the following:

The flotilla was scattered in every direction, and the gloomy dawn revealed a sad spectacle. The shore of the islands and the main were strewn with wrecks of vessels and property. Fifteen large boats were totally lost and many more too severely damaged to be safe. For thirty-six hours the wind blew fiercely, but on the 20th, there having been a comparative calm for more than a day, a large proportion of the troops with the sound boats, arrived at Grenadier Island.

Captain Mordecai Myers was very active in saving lives and property during this boisterous weather. It was resolved to send back to Sacketts Harbor all who could not endure active service in the campaign. Nearly two hundred of these were put on board two schooners with hospital stores. The vessels were wrecked and Captain Myers at his own solicitation was sent by General Boyd with two large boats for the rescue of the passengers and crew. He found the schooners lying on their sides, the sails flapping and the sea breaking over them. Many had perished and the most of those alive, having drank freely of the liquors among the hospital stores, were nearly all intoxicated. The hatches were open and the vessels were half filled with water. By great exertion and personal risk, Captain Myers succeeded in taking to the shore nearly all of the two hundred persons who had embarked on the schooners; forty or fifty were dead.¹

The next move of the Americans under General Brown was an attempt to attack Montreal. The English marched from Kingston to Prescott and then forward to meet the American

1894, p. 459; Isaac Markens, "The Hebrews in America," New York, 1888, pp. 127-128. As to his military career see "Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment of the State of New York, 1783-1821, compiled and edited by Hugh Hastings, State Historian," Albany, 1901, vol. ii, pp. 980, 1089, 1383; Thomas H. S. Hamersly, "Complete Regular Army Register of the United States, 1779-1789," Washington, 1880, pp. 74, 101, 112, 140, 153; Francis B. Heitman, "Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, 1789-1903," Washington, 1914, vol. 1, p. 740.

¹ Lossing, *supra*, p. 646.

invader. A severe engagement took place November 11, 1813 at Chrysler's Farm a few miles below Williamsburg. The Americans were beaten, forced to retreat and the Montreal expedition was abandoned.⁸

At the battle of Chrysler's Farm, Captain Myers was among those who were severely wounded. The wounded were placed in barns and log-houses, and the Chrysler Mansion was made a hospital. Lossing tells us that

a bullet passed through Captain Myer's arm near his shoulder, while at the head of his men in assailing the British behind a stone wall. The desperateness of the encounter may be conceived, when the fact is stated that of eighty-nine men he lost twenty-three. He shared General Boyd's quarters at French Mills. Dr. Man a noted physician took him to his house ten miles distant, where he remained four months. He there became acquainted with the daughter of Judge William Bailey of Plattsburg and in March following they were married in that town.⁹

The New York Public Library possesses quite a collection of letters written by prominent people to Captain Myers; among these I found one written in 1814 by James Kent, subsequently the famous chancellor, mentioning the fact that Miss Bailey had called on him, and promising to do all he could in regard to his request for promotion in the army.¹⁰ Lossing says:

During the remainder of the war Myers performed laborious and gallant service under several commands in the Northern Department and in 1815, the disability produced by his wound,

⁸ Harper's "Encyclopedia," *supra*, p. 124.

⁹ Lossing, *supra*, p. 654; "Return of the killed and wounded of a Detachment of the United States Army in an Action fought at Williamsburg in Upper Canada on the 11th of November, 1813," printed by Rev. S. Williams in "Sketches of the War between the United States and the British Isles," Rutland, Vt., 1815, p. 219, Henry M. Brackenridge, "History of the Late War," 1844, p. 173: and authorities mentioned in Note 6.

¹⁰ New York Public Library, Bailey-Myers Collection (MSS.), vol. vii, No. 654.

caused him to be disbanded and placed in the pension roll for the half pay of Captain. This ended his military career.¹¹

Later he became Mayor of Schenectady and also represented New York City in the state legislature for about six years.¹² The collection of letters referred to shows that he was on intimate terms with men of prominence, such as Van Buren and Horatio Seymour.¹³

After his marriage, Myers became estranged from the Jewish community. His family were reared as Christians and added their mother's name. His son was the late Theodorus Bailey-Myers¹⁴ and the Bailey-Myers family is still socially prominent in New York.

Following the gloomy occurrences referred to, came the news of Perry's victory on Lake Erie, and it may be of interest to mention that Commodore Perry subsequently acquired and lived in the old Levy homestead at Newport, a house which had also belonged to one of the Seixas family, and which is still one of the landmarks of that city.¹⁵

Among New York Jews who figure in the military annals of the War of 1812, are the following:

Aaron Levy, a son of Hayman Levy and son-in-law of Isaac Moses. Levy's father is remembered as a prominent merchant

¹¹ Lossing, *supra*, p. 654, and authorities mentioned in Note 6. His sword and other relics of his military career are preserved in the National Museum at Washington.

¹² *Ibid.* He was also prominent in Masonic affairs. See McClenachan, "History of Freemasonry in New York," vol. iii, p. 395; Samuel Oppenheim in *Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society*, No. 19, pp. 39, 99.

¹³ New York Public Library, Bailey-Myers Collection, *supra*, vol. ii, Nos. 1734, 1836; vol. vi, Nos. 841, 845.

¹⁴ Cassie Mason Myers Julien, *supra*; "Reminiscences," *supra*. It is curious, however, that both these publications omit the first name of the subject throughout, always referring to him only as Major M. Myers, so that while the sketches are otherwise complete, the name "Mordecai" nowhere appears.

¹⁵ George C. Mason, "Reminiscences of Newport."

during the Revolution, while his father-in-law was a patriot who had assisted the American cause financially.¹⁶ Aaron Levy became Paymaster in the 6th Regiment of Infantry as early as 1800,¹⁷ and was First Lieutenant of the First Brigade, Artillery, Second Regiment, in 1810.¹⁸ He became Captain and Paymaster in 1812, and garrisoned the northern battery in New York.¹⁹ In 1815 he appears as Second Major in the Third Regiment, Artillery,²⁰ and later in the same year as First Major in the 9th Regiment, Artillery.²¹ In May, 1816, he was Lieutenant-Colonel of that regiment.²²

Bernard Hart, the father of the late Emanuel B. Hart,²³ was Division Quartermaster during the War.²⁴ He was the grandfather of Francis Bret Harte, the distinguished novelist.²⁵

¹⁶ Hazard's "Register of Pennsylvania," vol. ii, p. 259; Max J. Kohler, in *Publications, supra*, No. 2, p. 86; No. 3, p. 84; Leon Hühner, in No. 23, p. 173.

¹⁷ "Original MS. Diary of Aaron Levy," in possession of his descendant, Lionel Moses, of New York; "Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment," *supra*, vol. i, pp. 489, 818.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 1132.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 1297; "Military Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York," Albany, 1902, vol. i, p. 451; vol. iii, p. 85; Levy Diary mentioned in Note 17.

²⁰ "Military Minutes," *supra*, vol. ii, p. 1603; Levy Diary above referred to.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 1649; Diary.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. iii, p. 2137; Diary.

²³ N. Taylor Phillips, in *Publications, supra*, No. 4, p. 211.

²⁴ See *New York Leader*, June 19, 1858: "He provided substantially to the defense of New York at the appeal of Governor Tompkins and Tompkins appointed him Division Quartermaster which he fulfilled honorably till the close of the war." See also Henry Childs Merwin, "The Life of Bret Harte," New York, 1911, p. 5; "Military Minutes," *supra*, vol. i, pp. 368, 489, 509, 818; vol. ii, pp. 1219, 1297.

²⁵ Bernard Hart had married a Gentile early in life. His second wife, however, was a Jewess. A son by the first union was brought up as a Christian by his mother. This son, Henry Hart, was the father of Bret Harte. See Merwin, *supra*, p. 6.

The records of the Council of Appointment show the following Jewish officers: Hayman Solomon, Captain of the 10th Brigade, 115th Regiment;²⁶ Captain Abraham Seixas, who became Second Major of the 10th Brigade Infantry, 4th Regiment, in 1815;²⁷ Captain Moses B. Seixas;²⁸ and Captain Solomon Seixas of the 5th Regiment, Second Brigade Infantry, who became Second Major of the 51st Infantry in 1816.²⁹ Mention is also made of the Seixas Company of Colonel Van Hook's Regiment in 1814.³⁰

Haym M. Salomon, son of the well-known Haym Salomon of the Revolution, is mentioned in 1812, successively as Lieutenant and Captain of the First Brigade, Infantry.³¹

Members of the family of Jonas Phillips, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, figure in these records also. Thus Dr. Manuel Phillips³² served as assistant surgeon in the war³³ and under date of September 27, 1812 is found a letter from Governor Tompkins, of New York, recommending Naphtali Phillips for the position of Paymaster. The letter written to the Paymaster-General of the United States reads:

As Mr. Naphtale Philips has been recommended to me for Paymaster for the militia in service at New York, and as I know him to be worthy and competent, should you think proper upon his giving such security as General Armstrong may approve to make remittance to him, I have no doubt he will discharge the duty

²⁶ "Military Minutes," *supra*, p. 1383.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 1158, 1089, 1644, 1650.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 1159, 978, 1089.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 1139, 1647, 979, 1044, 1140; vol. iii, pp. 1910, 2093, 2115.

³⁰ "Military Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins," *supra*, vol. i, p. 725; vol. ii, p. 647.

³¹ "Military Minutes," *supra*, vol. ii, pp. 1299, 1383, 1175, 1732.

³² N. Taylor Phillips, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 2, pp. 60, 61.

³³ Morais, *supra*, pp. 416, 426, 477; Simon Wolf, "The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen," Philadelphia, 1895, pp. 76, 86; "Pennsylvania Archives," 6th Series, vol. vii, p. 424.

with fidelity and ability and therefore recommend him for the situation.³⁴

Both Captains Seixas and Levy figure in Governor Tompkins' *Correspondence* of the period.³⁵

In the records of the Council of Appointment may also be found the name of Sampson Simson, subsequently one of the founders of Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. He is mentioned as ensign in Captain Davis's Company in 1802,³⁶ as Lieutenant in the company of his kinsman Joseph Simson in 1803,³⁷ and upon the latter's resignation he became Captain of the same company, which position he retained throughout the war.³⁸

Samuel Noah, a cousin of Major Mordecai M. Noah, was graduated at West Point in 1807, and became an ensign. Later, while on duty at the Florida frontier, he became intimate with Captain Winfield Scott and Wade Hampton.³⁹ Promoted to 1st Lieutenant, he resigned in 1811 but volunteered after war was declared. Not being recommissioned, he served as a private in Captain Dunning's company for the defense of Brooklyn, then being fortified to repel the anticipated descent of the British on Long Island, and continued in service to the end

³⁴ "Military Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins," *supra*, vol. iii, p. 150.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. i, pp. 300, 725, 451.

³⁶ "Military Minutes," *supra*, vol. i, p. 586.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 664.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 664, 724; see also, pp. 449, 465, 664, 724; vol. ii, pp. 1603, 2244.

³⁹ For a full and appreciative account of his career see General George W. Cullum's "Biographical Sketches of Deceased Graduates of the United States Military Academy," quoted by Max J. Kohler, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 4, p. 91; Simon Wolf, "Mordecai M. Noah," p. 46; Hamersly, *supra*, p. 58; Heitman, *supra*, p. 749.

of the war.⁴⁰ General George W. Cullum in his sketch of Noah's career says:

His services were most zealous and untiring, his military education, practical knowledge and quick intelligence proving powerful auxiliaries to his patriotic devotion to duty.⁴¹

Besides those mentioned, the book of Hon. Simon Wolf also includes Jacob and Benjamin Hays and Col. Nathan Myers as soldiers during the same period.⁴²

Quite a number of Jewish volunteers came from Pennsylvania; among these were Benjamin Gratz, a son of Michael Gratz, a Revolutionary patriot of Philadelphia, who enlisted in 1813 at the age of twenty-one under General Thomas Cadwalader, and served as Second Lieutenant in Captain John Swift's Company of Pennsylvania volunteers;⁴³ his kinsman Joseph Gratz served in the First Regiment, Philadelphia Cavalry⁴⁴ and Simon Gratz in the 25th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia.⁴⁵ Joseph Phillips a son of Jonas Phillips,⁴⁶ a Revolutionary soldier, served throughout, and later became secretary of the Illinois territory.⁴⁷ Abraham Mitchell,⁴⁸ and David G.

⁴⁰ Same as Note 39; Simon Wolf, "The American Jew," *supra*, pp. 35, 38.

⁴¹ Same as Notes 39 and 40. According to General Cullum, Noah's resignation was due to his failing to get promotion to which he was clearly entitled. His career was most romantic and full of adventure.

⁴² Wolf, *supra*, p. 70; Guernsey, "New York City during the War of 1812." I have however been unable to find his name in any of the synagogue records.

⁴³ "Pennsylvania Archives," 6th Series, *supra*, vol. vii, pp. 523, 94, 529; vol. viii, p. 592; lieutenant, p. 570; Morais, *supra*, p. 459.

⁴⁴ "Pennsylvania Archives," *supra*, vol. vii, pp. 60, 857, 860.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 96.

⁴⁶ See *Publications, supra*, No. 2, p. 61.

⁴⁷ See "The National Advocate," March 13, 1817: "Joseph Phillips late of the Army of the United States to be Secretary of the Illinois Territory." Also Morais, *supra*, p. 459; Wolf, *supra*, p. 71; *Publications, ibid.*, "Pennsylvania Archives," *supra*, p. 397; vol. viii, p. 398; vol. ix, p. 268.

⁴⁸ Morais, *supra*, p. 459; Wolf, *supra*, p. 70.

Seixas, a son of Rev. Gershom Seixas, the patriot Jewish minister of the American Revolution,⁴⁹ likewise figure as soldiers during the war.

Isaac De Young, a native of Rotterdam in Holland, came to this country when a child, and at the age of sixteen enlisted in the Third New Jersey Heavy Regulars. He took part in the battles of Sackett's Harbor, Queenstown, Frenchtown, Fort George, Stony Creek, Lake Champlain, Georgetown, Oswego, Chippewa and Lundy's Lane. In the battle last mentioned, he was severely wounded, but served to the end of the war, during which he became a friend of Winfield Scott, subsequently the well-known general. De Young died in 1868 and is buried in the Jewish Cemetery of Philadelphia.⁵⁰ Other Jewish soldiers were Abraham Solomon⁵¹ and Samuel S. Solomon who served in the 24th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia,⁵² Daniel Levi who served as sergeant,⁵³ Louis Levy,⁵⁴ Lewis Levi of Lancaster,⁵⁵ Samuel Israel,⁵⁶ Abraham Nones, who served in the State Fencibles,⁵⁷ and Abraham B. Nones in the First Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.⁵⁸

In addition to the foregoing, the following are mentioned as Jewish soldiers from Pennsylvania in the work of Hon.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* He died at South Bend, Indiana, in 1880.

⁵⁰ See "General Society of the War of 1812," 1908, Pennsylvania, p. 45, *et seq.*, which contains a long account of his career. Also Morais, *supra*, pp. 459-460; Wolf *supra*, p. 72; Albert M. Friedenberg, in *Publications, supra*, No. 17, p. 41.

⁵¹ "Pennsylvania Archives," *supra*, pp. 206, 633.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 92.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 392; vol. viii, pp. 1005, 1008, 1011, 1013.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 1420.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 1113, 1115, 1119, 1122.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. ix, p. 143.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. viii, p. 393.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. vii, pp. 481, 487; vol. viii, p. 398; vol. ix, p. 143. He was in all likelihood a son of Major Nones, a well-known Jewish soldier in the American Revolution.

Simon Wolf, though I do not know his authority for including them: ⁵⁹ Jacob Appel who served in Captain Samuel Borden's Company, Fourth Detachment; ⁶⁰ Jacob and Samuel Bachman; ⁶¹ Sergeant Samuel Goodman who served in Captain George Zieber's Company, First Regiment, Second Brigade; Corporal Abraham Gunsinhouser, of Captain Jacob Wentz's Company, 52d Regiment; ⁶² Private Jacob Haas, of Captain George Dinckey's Company, 18th Section of Riflemen; ⁶³ Ezekiel Jacobs of Captain Cotter's Company, First Detachment, First Brigade; ⁶⁴ Henry Loeb, of Captain Jacob Ashey's Company, First Regiment; ⁶⁵ First Lieutenant Isaac Mertz, of Captain Middleswarth's Company, Battalion of Riflemen; ⁶⁶ Lieutenant David Metzler; ⁶⁷ Corporal Daniel Metzler, of Captain Beckwith's Company; Private Joseph Metzgar, of Captain Diller's Company, Second Brigade; Ensign Samuel Meyer, of Captain Hess' Company of Riflemen from Northhampton County; Private Jacob Miller, 101st Regiment; Myer Mordecai, Pennsylvania Volunteers; Isaac Moses, Second Regiment; Jacob Moser; Adjutant Isaac Myers, 1st Regiment; ⁶⁸ Private Samuel Phillips, 1st Detachment of 1st Brigade; ⁶⁹ Jacob Rosensteel, of Williamson's Company, Second Brigade, Pennsylvania militia; ⁷⁰ Abraham Shatz, of Zieber's Company, 1st Regiment,

⁵⁹ Wolf, *supra*, pp. 68-72.

⁶⁰ "Pennsylvania Archives," *supra*, vol. viii, pp. 1124, 1127.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, vol. vii, pp. 212, 547, 548, 552, 556; vol. viii, pp. 383, 551, 757.

⁶² *Ibid.*, vol. vii, p. 144; vol. viii, p. 800.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 355; vol. ix, p. 174.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. viii, pp. 346, 369, 376.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. vii, pp. 372, 399; vol. viii, pp. 846, 925, 927.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 436.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 166.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. viii, pp. 831, 1275; Heitman, *supra*, p. 740.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 353, 370, 376; vol. ix, pp. 711, 713; vol. x, pp. 37, 84, 191.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. vii, p. 712; vol. viii, p. 256.

Second Brigade; ⁷¹ Siegfried Solomon, Captain Dinckley's Company, 18th Section of Riflemen; Samuel Wamser and Michael Wolf of Zieber's Company, 1st Regiment, Second Brigade; Corporal Samuel Weiss, Second Brigade; Privates Jacob Wolf of Captain Wilson's Company from Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Abraham Yuxsheimer, of Captain Dorr's Company, 101st Regiment.⁷²

Toward the close of 1813, all New England, suffering commercially from the effects of the war, united in opposition to its continuance and to the administration. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* even broached the idea that it would be best for New England to conclude a separate peace with Great Britain or, at least, assume a position of neutrality, leaving it to the other states to fight out the war.⁷³ This produced considerable anxiety at Washington, and also led to the famous Hartford Convention. Webster, in his first speech at this time, declared that the difficulty of raising troops grew out of the unpopularity of the war, which is evidenced by the fact that it was only at a cost of about \$2,000,000 in bounties, that 14,000 recruits were obtained, of whom New England furnished more than all the other states put together.⁷⁴

Among the papers preserved by the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation of New York, is a MS. sermon delivered about this time by its minister, Rev. Gershom Mendez Seixas, in which he pleaded for funds for the relief of the sufferers of the Northwest Territory who had been the victims of both British and Indian warfare. In this sermon, this patriot minister implored his parishioners to stand by the flag and their country, and

to support the President of the United States in the present state of public disaffection.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, vols. viii, ix.

⁷² Wolf, *supra*, pp. 68-72.

⁷³ Harper's "Encyclopedia," *supra*, p. 124.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 125.

He then continued with sentiments which might well be repeated at the present day. To quote:

Support the country in its position at all hazards, because Congress knowing all the facts, is the better Judge of what is necessary than the private citizen. . . . To the citizens at large, it is sufficient for us to know that our rulers are chosen to be Judges on all affairs concerning the welfare of their constituents. They have declared war, and it is our bounden duty to act as true and faithful citizens, to support and preserve the honor, dignity and the independence of the United States of America, that they may bear equal rank among the nations of the earth.⁷⁵

Prior to this time the Americans had been on the offensive, but they were now compelled to change to defensive warfare. The entire coast was menaced by British squadrons, and at New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston and Savannah, all of which were exposed to attack, the people were kept busy casting up fortifications for defense. In this connection a number of Jews took an active part.

In January, 1814, President Madison nominated John Quincy Adams, Bayard, and Henry Clay as Peace Commissioners; Joseph B. Nones a midshipman in the navy, and at the time secretary to Clay, accompanied the Commission to Ghent.⁷⁶ Nones was a son of Major Nones of the Revolutionary War, and was later assigned to the *Guerriere* commanded by Decatur. He continued on Decatur's staff for two years and took part in the Algerine War, retiring in 1822.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ See Leon Hühner, "The Patriot Jewish Minister of the American Revolution," in *Jewish Comment*, January 10, 1902, where this MS. sermon is quoted more at length.

⁷⁶ Morais, *supra*, p. 470; Markens, *supra*, p. 135; Wolf, *supra*, p. 85. Max J. Kohler, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 16, p. 32, cited Morais, *supra*, regarding Nones' employment as the secretary of Henry Clay on this mission. Through a typographical error Mr. Kohler's phrase, "Morais mentions," etc., was there printed as "Morais questions," etc. I make this correction at Mr. Kohler's request.

⁷⁷ Same as Note 76.

After the burning of Washington, the British under General Ross approached Baltimore, and on September 12, 1814 attacked North Point, where General Ross was killed. They found the city so well fortified, however, that they retired, but on the following day (September 13, 1814), the British fleet bombarded Fort McHenry. The defense was carried on by the citizen soldiers of Baltimore, and a list of these is one of the few lists of names published concerning the war.

It is entitled "Muster Roll of Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, September 12 and 13, 1814." The Jews on this list are the following:

Fifth Regiment of Maryland Cavalry Militia.

Maryland Chasseurs:

Jacob Myers, Lieutenant; Andrew Levy, Private.⁷⁸

First Regiment, Franklin Artillery:

Joseph Myers, Captain.⁷⁹

Baltimore Fencibles:

Philip I. Cohen, Private; Mendus Cohen, Private.⁸⁰

Samuel Etting, Private.⁸¹

Philip and Mendes Cohen were nephews of Jacob I. Cohen, a Jewish soldier in the Revolution, and Philip subsequently became Postmaster of Norfolk, Virginia.⁸²

American Artillerists:

Samuel Cohen, Junior, 2d Sergeant;⁸³ Jacob Hess, Private; Jesse Hess, Private; Jacob Jonas, Private.⁸⁴

⁷⁸ "Muster Roll," *supra*, Baltimore, n. d., pp. 8, 9.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 13. Also William M. Marine, "The British Invasion of Maryland," Baltimore, 1913, p. 249; "The Jewish Encyclopedia."

⁸¹ "Muster Roll," *supra*, p. 13; Marine, *supra*, p. 280. Etting was wounded at North Point. See *ibid.*, p. 173. As to Etting family see "The Jewish Encyclopedia."

⁸² See "The Jewish Encyclopedia"; Blum, "Jews of Baltimore," *supra*, p. 4.

⁸³ "Muster Roll," *supra*, p. 14; Blum, *supra*, p. 4.

⁸⁴ "Muster Roll," *supra*, p. 15.

Washington Artillery:

Samuel Konig.⁸⁵

Eagle Artillerists:

Salomon Myers.⁸⁶

United Maryland Artillery:

Levi Callmus.⁸⁷

1st Rifle Battalion of Maryland Militia.

Union Yagers:

Martin Hirsch, 1st Corporal; ⁸⁸ Jacob Moses, Private.⁸⁹

Capt. George Stile's Corps of Marine Artillery.

Marine Artillery:

N. Myers, Private.⁹⁰

York Volunteers attached to the 5th Maryland Volunteer Infantry:

Jacob Barnitz, Junior, 1st Lieutenant: David Kaufman, Private; ⁹¹ Jacob Lehman, Private.⁹²

Maryland Cavalry:

Jacob Baer, Captain.⁹³

5th Regiment of Infantry of Maryland Militia.

1st Baltimore Light Infantry:

Michael Wolf, Private.⁹⁴

Mechanical Volunteers:

Thomas Levy, Private; Jacob Meyer, Private.⁹⁵

Baltimore United Volunteers:

David Warfield, Captain; ⁹⁶ Isaac Phillips, Junior, Private.⁹⁷

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 20. The name also appears as Kalmus. He was a young Bohemian Jew who arrived in 1798 at the age of fifteen. See also Blum, *supra*, p. 4.

⁸⁸ "Muster Roll," *supra*, p. 22.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 23; Marine, *supra*, p. 386; Blum, *supra*, p. 4.

⁹⁰ "Muster Roll," *supra*, p. 25.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 35. I am not certain whether he was a Jew.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 36.

Independent Blues:

Samuel Myers, Sergeant.

Sixth Independent Regiment Maryland Militia:

Henry Wolf, Private; ⁹⁸ G. C. Leoni, Private.⁹⁹

27th Independent Regiment:

Isaac Wolf, Private; Benjamin Jacobs, Private; ¹⁰⁰ VincentLevy, Private; ¹⁰¹ Benjamin F. Pollock, 3d Sergeant; ¹⁰²Aaron Mark, Private.¹⁰³

39th Independent Regiment:

L. Noah, Private; ¹⁰⁴ Jacob Wolf, Junior, 4th Sergeant; ¹⁰⁵Daniel Kaufman, Private; Barnard Myers,¹⁰⁶ SamuelWolf, 1st Lieutenant; William Samuels, 4th Corporal.¹⁰⁷

51st Independent Regiment:

Samuel Solomon,¹⁰⁸

and Isaac Phillips, designated as "one of the patriotic citizens under whom volunteers organize."¹⁰⁹

In addition to the foregoing mention may be made of Manuel Joseph¹¹⁰ and Solomon Etting a distinguished Jewish citizen of Baltimore who was elected to the Committee on Vigilance and served on other important committees in connection with the defense of the city.¹¹¹

Though the South escaped attack at first, its cities along the seacoast were very uneasy. In Savannah, for instance, from the very beginning of 1812,

meetings were held by citizens in the interests of the war question and to discuss proper means of protecting the city. The young men

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 42.¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, p. 58.⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 44.¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 60.¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 51.¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 61.¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 54.¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 72.¹⁰² *Ibid.*, p. 52.¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 61.¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 71; Marine, *supra*, p. 443.¹⁰⁹ "Muster Roll," *supra*, p. 76.¹¹⁰ Marine, *supra*, p. 342.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 133, 139, 141. Besides those mentioned, Reuben Etting is stated to have been among the defenders of Baltimore on this occasion; see B. H. Hartogensis, in *Publications, supra*, No. 25, p. 95.

met in the courthouse for the purpose of uniting their interests in the formation of a volunteer Company.

Abraham Sheftall, of the distinguished Revolutionary family, was secretary of this organization.¹¹²

Another Jew, Captain Chapman Levy, was likewise active in Charleston. To quote Judge O'Neill:

This gentleman was a Hebrew by birth and a native of the ancient town of Camden, born July 4th, 1787. . . . He became a lawyer of prominence and in 1814 volunteered for active service with a fine Rifle Company of which he was captain, in the regiment of drafted militia commanded by Col. Adam McWillie, and served at Haddrel's Point near Charleston until March, 1815. He was subsequently a member of the South Carolina Legislature.¹¹³

Another writer tells us that Camden contributed to the volunteer regiment of Lancaster the fine Rifle Company of Captain Chapman Levy.¹¹⁴

¹¹² Adelaide Wilson, "Historical and Picturesque Savannah," Boston, 1889, p. 115; George White, "Historical Collections of Georgia," p. 348.

¹¹³ John Belton O'Neill, "Bench and Bar of South Carolina," Charleston, 1859, vol. ii, p. 281, which gives an extended and appreciative account of Levy as lawyer and soldier. To quote: "He was also known as Col. Levy from being the aide of one of the governors of the state. . . . As a member of the legislature he was active and untiring in the discharge of his duties. In the unfortunate political contest which gave rise to nullification, and which has been the parent in a greater or less degree of all our subsequent political dissension, Colonel Levy was an ardent and consistent Union man, and did more than anyone else to keep Kershaw, Chesterfield and Lancaster in their proper places. . . . He removed to Mississippi and died there in December, 1850 in the 64th year of his age. . . ." See also the present writer in *Publications, supra*, No. 12, pp. 163-164; and No. 22, pp. 154-155.

¹¹⁴ Edwin J. Scott, "Random Recollections of a Long Life," Columbia, 1884, p. 15.

Myer Moses, likewise of Revolutionary ancestry, is mentioned as Captain of militia at this time.¹¹⁵ He too, subsequently became a member of the South Carolina Legislature.¹¹⁶

Isaac Minis, a son of Philip and Judith Minis, served as a private in Captain Bullock's Company of Artillery, First Regiment of Georgia Militia.¹¹⁷ His father, too, had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, while his mother was so staunch a patriot that the British ordered her confined to her house for a time to prevent her giving assistance to the American cause.¹¹⁸

Dr. Jacob De La Motta, of Savannah, served as a surgeon in the regular army to the end of the war.¹¹⁹ He was later appointed by President Harrison Receiver-General for his District.¹²⁰ Dr. De La Motta was a devout Hebrew and instrumental in organizing anew the congregation at Savannah. For a number of years he officiated as minister both at Charleston and Savannah, without compensation.¹²¹ His father, Emanuel De Le Motta, a Revolutionary soldier, is said likewise to have served in the War of 1812.¹²²

Hyman Cohen, of South Carolina, commissioned Second Lieutenant of Rifles in 1812, was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1814.¹²³ Jacob Cohen, of Savannah, served as a private in

¹¹⁵ See Markens, *supra*, p. 179; Leon Hühner, in *Publications, supra*, No. 12, p. 164; Wolf, *supra*, p. 70.

¹¹⁶ Same as Note 115; *Publications, supra*, No. 12, pp. 163-164.

¹¹⁷ "The Jewish Encyclopedia."

¹¹⁸ White, "Statistics of Georgia," Savannah, 1849, p. 167; Leon Hühner, "The Jews of Georgia in the American Revolution," in *Publications, supra*, No. 17, p. 100.

¹¹⁹ Francis B. Heitman, "Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army," Washington, 1903, p. 365.

¹²⁰ See *The Occident*, vol. iii, p. 59; "The Jewish Encyclopedia."

¹²¹ Same as Note 120; Leon Hühner, "The Jews of South Carolina," in *Publications, supra*, No. 12, p. 39 *et seq.*

¹²² Same as Note 120.

¹²³ Hamersly, *supra*, p. 70. The name is given as Hyem Cohen. See also Heitman, *supra*, p. 315; *Publications, supra*, No. 12, p. 164.

Captain William F. Bullett's Company of Georgia Militia.¹²⁴ David Lewis of Strassburg came to America at an early age and is said to have fought in the Revolution as well as in the War of 1812.¹²⁵ Major M. G. Waage,¹²⁶ Philip Minis and Abraham De Leon are likewise mentioned, the latter as Surgeon's mate.¹²⁷

In 1813, the government invited subscriptions for a \$16,000,000 loan, but only \$4,000,000 were subscribed, and government bonds were sold at a 15% discount.¹²⁸ In a work entitled "Old Merchants of New York," special praise is given to a few patriotic merchants who subscribed at this time at a deliberate sacrifice. Among those thus mentioned is Harmon Hendricks, who was a subscriber for \$40,000.¹²⁹

In January, 1815, our government found itself without money, the regular military force decreasing, a victorious British army threatening the Northern frontier, Cockburn in possession of Cumberland Island off the coast of Georgia, and a formidable British armament preparing to invade the Gulf region.¹³⁰

In connection with preventing the invasion of the south at this crisis, we find the name of another Jewish officer, Major

¹²⁴ This item appears in a declaration on file in Washington, mentioned by B. A. Elzas in "The Jews of South Carolina," p. 144.

¹²⁵ This appears from an old letter written by Joseph C. Lewis, a Jew of New Orleans, to his sister giving some data concerning the history of the family in America, and from data collected by Mr. William Einstein, of New York.

¹²⁶ Heitman, *supra*, pp. 77, 103, 113, 133, 156, 991.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 77, 103, 113, 133, 156; *Publications, supra*, No. 12, p. 164; "American Biography," vol. iii, Edwin De Leon.

¹²⁸ See Scoville, "The Old Merchants of New York City," First Series, pp. 329-333.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*; Wolf, *supra*, p. 36; also Max J. Kohler, in *Publications, supra*, No. 4, p. 90.

¹³⁰ Harper's "Encyclopedia," *supra*, p. 126.

Abraham A. Massias, whose achievement is prominently detailed in practically every history of the war.

The family of Major Massias seems to have come from Barbados, and had probably settled at Charleston, for a Benjamin Massias of Barbados is mentioned as a trustee in the deed to the Cuming Street Cemetery of that city.¹³¹ Abraham Massias was born in 1772 and is mentioned at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1800.¹³² He was appointed ensign in 1802¹³³ and lieutenant in the New York Militia in 1804.¹³⁴ Though residing in New York at the time, he appeared also as a member of the Congregation Beth Elohim of Charleston. He became Captain of the First Regiment of Light Infantry of New York, in 1807, but resigned in 1809¹³⁵ and entered the service of the United States, at first as Captain, and in 1814 as Major in the regular army.¹³⁶

The British made several attempts to enter Georgia from the sea. They landed at Cumberland Island and made an effort to hold it, but were so vigorously attacked by a small force under Captain Massias that they were compelled to retreat to their boats.¹³⁷ Another writer detailing this achievement, states:

that the enemy attacked Point Petre on the St. Marys, sending 1500 men in boats up the river for that purpose; but the fortifications were good, and the garrison under Major Massias made so

¹³¹ B. A. Elzas, "The Old Jewish Cemeteries at Charleston," 1903, p. 4; N. Darnell Davis, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 22, p. 178.

¹³² "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, 1791-1820," *supra*; Samuel Oppenheim, "The Jews in Masonry," *Publications*, *supra*, No. 19, p. 19.

¹³³ "Military Minutes," *supra*, vol. i, p. 586.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. ii, pp. 923, 924.

¹³⁶ Heitman, *supra*, p. 696; Hamersly, *supra*, pp. 70, 108, 171; Morais, *supra*, p. 459.

¹³⁷ See Georgia Historical Society, vol. iv, p. 219; "Memoirs of Georgia," Southern Historical Association, 1895, vol. i, p. 96; Smith, "History of Georgia," p. 524.

brave a show that the English concluded that the post was too strong to be carried, and withdrew.¹³⁸

A very full account of the bravery and daring of Major Massias and his sixty riflemen, and of the heavy loss which they inflicted upon the British, is given in Williams' "History of the War of 1812,"¹³⁹ and also in White's "Historical Collections of Georgia," where this achievement is detailed at some length.¹⁴⁰ I have also found Major Massias' reports of the affair at Point Petre, made to General Boyd, and published in Brannan's "Official Letters of the Military and Naval Officers of the United States," in 1823.¹⁴¹ In 1818 when Colonel Brackenridge made his famous plea for the removal of Jewish disabilities in Maryland, he made special reference to the valuable services of this Jewish officer.¹⁴²

Major Massias became Paymaster in the United States Army in 1820. He was a devout Hebrew, and a trustee of the De Costa burial ground in Charleston, in which city he died in 1848. His remains are interred near the remains of the famous Salvador family, and his tombstone records his twenty years' service in the field, his rank in the army and the fact that he was a benefactor of the Jewish Congregation of Charleston.¹⁴³

¹³⁸ "Life of William Lowndes," p. 119. This account states that Massias had been an officer in the American Revolution. The statement is erroneous, however, and refers to another member of his family who fought in the War for Independence. I am indebted for this reference to Mrs. Lee C. Harby, of Charleston, S. C.

¹³⁹ Rev. S. Williams, "Sketches of the War between the United States and the British Isles, *supra*, p. 287, *et seq.*

¹⁴⁰ George White, "Historical Collections of Georgia," New York, 1855, pp. 287-288; Stephen F. Miller, "The Bench and Bar of Georgia," 1858, vol. i, p. 458.

¹⁴¹ Washington, 1823, pp. 470-474.

¹⁴² See Speech of Col. J. W. D. Worthington, published in "Speeches on the Jew Bill," by H. N. Brackenridge, Philadelphia, 1829.

¹⁴³ "The Old Jewish Cemeteries," *supra*, 1903, pp. 104-106; Samuel Oppenheim, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 19, p. 20; Markens, *supra*, p. 179.

Among the prisoners in Dartmoor Prison were Morris Russel, of Savannah,¹⁴⁴ William Wolf, of Savannah¹⁴⁵ and Manuel Joseph.¹⁴⁶

In the United States Navy, there were quite a few Jews also. Abraham De Leon, a member of the well-known Georgia family, appeared as midshipman in 1812, as did Joseph B. Nones, already referred to.¹⁴⁷

Levi Myers Harby, a brother of Isaac Harby, the well-known journalist of the period, was born at Georgetown, South Carolina, in 1793. He became a midshipman in the United States Navy in 1812, was captured during the war and confined in Dartmoor Prison for nearly two years, but finally made his escape. Later he had command of a vessel in the expedition against the pirates of Tripoli, and also took part in the Seminole and Mexican Wars. He rose to the rank of Captain, but, after 52 years of service under the United States flag, resigned at the outbreak of the Civil War to enter the Confederate service. He was in command of the Confederate Fleet at Sabine Pass, and distinguished himself in the defense of Galveston.¹⁴⁸

More prominent still was Commodore Uriah P. Levy, who received his commission as sailing master in 1812. He was an officer on the brig-of-war *Argus* which ran the blockade to France, having on board Mr. Crawford, the American Minister to that country. He was captured by the British in the contest with the *Pelican* in the British Channel, and confined for a time at Dartmoor. He became Captain in the service and by

¹⁴⁴ "The Prisoners' Memoirs or Dartmoor Prison," New York, 1815, p. 258.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 259.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 258.

¹⁴⁷ Morais, *supra*, p. 470; Markens, *supra*, p. 135; Wolf, *supra*, p. 85.

¹⁴⁸ See Markens, *supra*, p. 136; Rev. Henry Cohen, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 2, p. 147; Wolf, *supra*, p. 83.

courtesy was entitled to be styled Commodore, though strictly speaking, such an office did not exist at the time.¹⁴⁹ It is said that Levy, for his patriotic services, received the freedom of the City of New York from the Common Council.¹⁵⁰ At the time of his death, he is said to have been the highest ranking naval officer in the United States,¹⁵¹ and his tombstone states that he was the father of the law for the abolition of flogging in the navy.¹⁵²

Besides the foregoing, mention is made of Mears Levy as a master between May, 1812 and June, 1813,¹⁵³ Abram Phillips, a midshipman, who was drowned in 1813,¹⁵⁴ Manuel Phillips, assistant surgeon,¹⁵⁵ Gratz Etting, Henry Etting and Ezekiel Solomon, pursers in the navy, and midshipman Israel Israel.¹⁵⁶

Aside from the army and the regular navy, however, there was a third element of great importance, which assisted the young republic during our second war with England. This was the signal success of American privateers in destroying not only British commerce, but vessels of war as well. Such enterprises were then considered not only legitimate but even patriotic, and Paul Jones and Decatur at one time figured prominently in this connection.

One of the most successful and daring of these privateers during the War of 1812, was a French Jew, Captain John

¹⁴⁹ See Simon Wolf, in *Publications, supra*, No. 3, p. 40; Wolf, *supra*, p. 84; Morais, *supra*, p. 469; Markens, *supra*, p. 134.

¹⁵⁰ *Publications, supra*, No. 3, p. 40; Wolf, *supra*, p. 84; Morais, *supra*, p. 470.

¹⁵¹ Same as Note 150.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ Morais, *supra*, p. 477; Wolf, *supra*, p. 84.

¹⁵⁴ Morais, *supra*, p. 477; Wolf, *supra*, p. 86.

¹⁵⁵ *Publications, supra*, No. 12, p. 164.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*; Morais, *supra*, p. 478; Wolf, *supra*, pp. 83, 86.

Ordroneaux of New York.¹⁵⁷ He was born at Nantes in 1778, and educated at Bordeaux. So important was his career to the American cause, that Edgar Stanton Maclay, one of the historians of the American Navy, devotes to his achievements an entire chapter in his work. Maclay informs us that Captain Ordroneaux was a seaman of extraordinary ability. At the outbreak of the war, he commanded the French privateer *Marengo*, and on June 23, 1812, while at New London, narrowly escaped the British. Shortly afterward, August 10, 1812, he took the British ship *Lady Sherlock*, and brought her to New York.¹⁵⁸

Thereafter his career was one of practically uninterrupted success, reaching its climax in 1814 when commanding the *Prince de Neufchâtel*. In March of that year he took nine valuable prizes in the British Channel.¹⁵⁹ This was followed by similar successes near Havre in June, and in the Irish Channel in August and September. According to Maclay, the *Prince de Neufchâtel* during that year was chased by seventeen men-of-war, but always managed to escape; while the goods captured by her from the enemy and brought safely into port, sold for nearly three million dollars, besides which a large amount of specie was secured.¹⁶⁰

Ordroneaux's crowning success with this ship came in October, 1814, when he captured the British frigate *Endymion*, and

¹⁵⁷ See *The Daily Standard-Union*, Brooklyn, April 9, 1905, "Yankee Sea Fighter of Early Days only recently known to have been a Jew"; Edwin Stanton Maclay, "History of American Privateers," New York, 1899, pp. 377-390; Coggeshall, "History of American Privateers," pp. 241-244. An elaborate account of Captain Ordroneaux appears in Leroy Wilson Kingman's "The Kingman and Ordroneaux Families," Owego, 1911, but fails to make any mention of his Jewish origin.

¹⁵⁸ Maclay, *supra*, pp. 377-90.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*; Coggeshall, *supra*, pp. 241-244.

¹⁶⁰ Same as Note 159.

the writer can perhaps do no better than quote from Maclay in this connection.

One of the most remarkable actions of the war, was between the British forty-gun frigate *Endymion* and the armed ship *Prince de Neufchâtel* of New York. The extraordinary feature of this affair, lies in the fact, that a vessel fitted out at private expense, actually frustrated the utmost endeavors of an English frigate of vastly superior force in guns and men. As the commander of the *Endymion* said, he lost as many men in his efforts to seize the *Prince de Neufchâtel*, as he would have done had his ship engaged a man-of-war of equal force, and he generously acknowledged that the people in the privateer conducted their defence in the most heroic and skillful manner.

In her attack, the *Endymion* had 49 killed, 37 wounded, and 30 of her crew were made prisoners. This notable action occurred off Nantucket on the night of October 11, 1814. The privateer mounted seventeen guns as against the Englishman's fifty, to say nothing of the latter's immensely larger calibre. On that night Ordroneaux made one of the most heroic defences in history. His ship had a prize when the British frigate was discovered. Ordroneaux tried hard to escape, but was unable to do so. Night came on, and the British frigate began the attack, coming alongside the privateer, and surrounding her with small boats.

This was the beginning of a desperate and bloody struggle, in which men fought like wild beasts.

Captain Ordroneaux himself fired some eighty shots at the enemy. Springing up the sides of the vessel, the British would endeavor to gain her deck, but every attempt was met by deadly blows by the sturdy defenders. It was well understood that Captain Ordroneaux had avowed his determination of never being taken alive, and that he would blow up his ship with all hands, before striking his colors. At one period of the fight, when the British had gained the deck, and were gradually driving the Americans back, Ordroneaux seized a lighted match, ran to the companionway directly over the magazine, and called out to his men that he would blow the ship up, if they retreated further. The threat had the desired effect. Such a sanguinary fight could not be of long duration, and at the end of twenty minutes, the English cried out for quarter, upon which the Americans ceased firing.

“So determined and effective a resistance,” says an English naval historian, “did great credit to the American captain and his crew.” Ordronaux compelled his prisoners to bind themselves not to serve against the United States in this war, until duly exchanged, and then put them ashore at Nantucket, in charge of the United States marshal. On gaining port, he retired from his command.¹⁶¹

Ordronaux is described in a contemporary work quoted by Maclay in the following words:

He was a Jew by persuasion, a Frenchman by birth, an American for convenience, and so diminutive in stature as to make it appear ridiculous in the eyes of others, even for him to enforce authority among a hardy, weather-beaten crew, should they do aught against his will.¹⁶²

Captain Ordronaux married a Gentile in New York, and later went to South America, where he died in 1841. The ship which was to bring back his body encountered a storm on its return, and the superstitious sailors are said to have thrown the body overboard.¹⁶³

The Treaty of Ghent was agreed upon in December, 1814, but, as the telegraph and cable had not yet been invented, the news did not reach America for some weeks, during which hostilities continued as before.

On January 1, 1815, Jackson made his brave defense of New Orleans. Prominent among the defenders of the city on that day was one of the noblest men America has ever produced,

¹⁶¹ Maclay, *supra*, pp. 377-390; Coggeshall, *supra*, pp. 241-244.

¹⁶² *Ibid.* Since the preparation of this paper my attention has been called also to a special article on the same subject, written by Edgar Stanton Maclay and entitled, “A Privateer of 1812. The Good Fight of Captain Ordronaux, who is now found to have been a Jew.” This appeared in *The New Era Magazine*, November, 1904.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

the well-known philanthropist Judah Touro.¹⁶⁴ In this connection, the writer can perhaps do no better than by quoting from James Parton's "Life of Jackson," which gives a detailed account of Touro's patriotism on that occasion.¹⁶⁵

Judah Touro the far famed and far beloved philanthropist of New Orleans on this day served his country in a capacity much more dangerous than that of combatant.

When the state was invaded, Mr. Touro was attached to a regiment of Louisiana militia. . . . After performing severe labors as a common soldier, in the ranks, Mr. Touro, on the 1st of January, volunteered his services to aid in carrying shot and shell from the magazine to Humphrey's Battery. In this humble, but perilous duty he was seen actively engaged during the terrible cannonade with which the British opened the day, regardless of the cloud of iron missiles which flew around him, and which made many of the stoutest hearted cling closely to the embankment or seek some shelter. But in the discharge of duty this good man knew no fear and perceived no danger. It was while thus engaged that he was struck in the thigh by a twelve pound shot which produced a ghastly and dangerous wound.¹⁶⁶

Here follows a long description of how he was left for dead upon the field, but was carried off and nursed back to life by his friend Rezin M. Shepherd. Parton then continues:

The same patriotism which prompted him to expose his life, on the plains of Chalmette, dictated that handsome donation for the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument, and has characterized a thousand other deeds of like liberality which were no less commended for their generosity, than their entire freedom from sectarian feeling or selfish aim.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁴ See Alexander Walker, "Life of Andrew Jackson," Philadelphia, 1860, pp. 267-272, where appears a detailed and interesting account of Touro's patriotism during the war. Judge Walker speaks of Touro as "that pure-minded philanthropist whose fame is co-extensive with the boundaries of this Republic, and has extended to distant and foreign lands which he has brightened and comforted by his benevolence." A sketch of Touro's career by Max J. Kohler may be found in *Publications, supra*, No. 13, pp. 93-111.

¹⁶⁵ Vol. ii, p. 164.

160 *Ibid.*

187 *Ibid.*

This last reference alludes to the fact that it was Touro who, with Amos Lawrence, supplied the funds for completing the famous memorial at Boston, and in historic Faneuil Hall both men were eulogized at the time in the following verse:

Amos and Judah, venerated names.

Patriarch and prophet press their equal claims,

Christian and Jew, they carry out one plan,

For though of different faith, each is in heart a man,¹⁶⁸

and it was certainly a noteworthy tribute that John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Joseph Story and Edward Everett were appointed a committee to prepare an inscription for a tablet to be placed in the monument, to record the liberality of Lawrence and Touro.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁸ George W. Warren, "Proceedings of Bunker Hill Monument Association," p. 330; Lewis Abraham, in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 3, p. 99; Max J. Kohler, in *ibid.*, No. 13, p. 100.

¹⁶⁹ Warren, *supra*, p. 312.

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